

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to extend the production tax credit for wind power energy development beyond the two-year cycle under which it now operates; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this document be presented to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-445. A resolution adopted by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives relative to securing international recognition and rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 876

Whereas, The Ecumenical Patriarchate, located in Istanbul, Turkey, is the sacred See that presides in a spirit of brotherhood over a communion of the self-governing churches of the Orthodox Christian world; and

Whereas, The See is led by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who is the 269th in direct succession to the Apostle Andrew and holds titular primacy as *primus inter pares*, meaning "first among equals" in the community of Orthodox churches worldwide; and

Whereas, In 1994 Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, along with leaders of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, cosponsored the Conference on Peace and Tolerance, which brought together Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders for an interfaith dialogue to help end the Balkan conflict and the ethnic conflict in the Caucasus region; and

Whereas, In 1997 the Congress of the United States awarded Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with the Congressional Gold Medal; and

Whereas, Following the terrorist attacks on our nation on September 11, 2001, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew gathered a group of international religious leaders to produce the first joint statement with Muslim leaders that condemned the 9/11 attacks as "anti-religious"; and

Whereas, In October 2005 the Ecumenical Patriarch, along with Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders, cosponsored the Conference on Peace and Tolerance to further promote peace and stability in southeastern Europe, the Caucasus region and Central Asia via religious leaders' interfaith dialogue, understanding and action; and

Whereas, The Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for nearly 2,000 years, numbers approximately 300 million members worldwide with more than 2 million members in the United States; and

Whereas, Since 1453 the continuing presence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey has been a living testament to the religious coexistence of Christians and Muslims; and

Whereas, This religious coexistence is in jeopardy because the Government of Turkey refuses to recognize the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which is considered a minority religion by the Turkish government; and

Whereas, The Government of Turkey has limited the candidates available to hold the office of Ecumenical Patriarch to only Turkish nationals, and from the millions of Orthodox Christians living in Turkey at the turn of the 20th century, and due to the continued policies of minority discrimination during this period by the Turkish government, there remain less than 3,000 of the Ecumenical Patriarch's flock left in Turkey today; and

Whereas, The Government of Turkey has reneged on its agreement to reopen the

Theological School on the island of Halki, which the Turkish government closed in 1971, thus impeding training for Orthodox Christian clergy; and

Whereas, The Turkish government has confiscated nearly 94% of the properties of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and has placed a 42% tax retroactive to 1999 on the Baloukli Hospital and Home for the Aged, a charity hospital run by the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and

Whereas, The European Union, a group of nations with a common goal of promoting peace and the well-being of its peoples, began accession negotiations with Turkey on October 3, 2005; and

Whereas, The European Union defined membership criteria for accession at the Copenhagen European Council in 1993, obligating candidate countries to achieve certain levels of reform, including stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, adherence to the rule of law and respect for and protection of minorities and human rights; and

Whereas, The Turkish government's current treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is inconsistent with the membership conditions and goals of the European Union; and

Whereas, Orthodox Christians in this Commonwealth and throughout the United States stand to lose their spiritual leader because of the continued actions of the Turkish government; and

Whereas, In November 2006 the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, a group of laymen who each have been honored with a Patriarchal title, or "offikion," by the Ecumenical Patriarch for their outstanding service to the Orthodox Church, will send an American delegation to Turkey to meet with Turkish government officials, as well as the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, regarding the Turkish government's treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Government of Turkey to do all of the following:

(1) Uphold and safeguard religious and human rights without compromise.

(2) Cease its discrimination of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

(3) Grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate international recognition, ecclesiastic succession and the right to train clergy of all nationalities.

(4) Respect the property rights and human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, to the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States and to the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation.

POM-446. A resolution adopted by the Michigan Senate relative to increasing funding to fully implement the Vaccine for Children Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 162

Whereas, The Vaccine for Children program is an outstanding example of a successful public-private partnership between the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and healthcare providers. Vaccines purchased with the buying power of the federal government are distributed, at no cost to the patient or provider, to all participating providers caring for uninsured and underinsured children, Medicaid recipients,

and Native Americans and Alaskan Natives. By distributing three-fourths of all the publicly funded doses, the Vaccine for Children program gives eligible children access to newly recommended vaccines and strengthens immunity levels across the community. Further, the program delivers vaccines to children as part of their routine, primary care rather than diverting them to public health departments; and

Whereas, A list of vaccines to be administered through the Vaccine for Children program is developed through sound, scientific review. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is authorized in statute to establish the list of vaccines to be administered through the program. Fifteen experts in infectious disease and immunization who sit on the committee meet publicly three times a year to consider revising the list through the addition of new vaccines or revising existing vaccine resolutions. The list then provides the basis for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to negotiate contacts for the purchase of large quantities of childhood vaccines; and

Whereas, The Vaccine for Children program adheres to the Vaccine Management Business Improvement Project, which leverages commercial best practices in vaccine procurement, ordering, distribution, and supply management. The program saves money for states through bulk purchases and eliminates variations in price from state to state. By managing public resources so astutely, the program has achieved the ultimate goal of eliminating cost as a barrier to vaccinating eligible children; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize Congress to increase funding to fully implement the Vaccine for Children program; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on Finance.

*Eric Solomon, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 4099. A bill for the relief of Perlat Binaj, Almida Binaj, Erina Binaj, and Anxhela Binaj; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 4100. A bill to expand visa waiver program to countries on a probationary basis and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.